CRS Build 10.0/VIP Build 3.1 Distribution E-Mail

The next upgrade to CRS and VIP is scheduled to be distributed to field sites on September 20. The main purpose of these Builds is to add security to the systems as the first step towards DOC security compliance. Specifically, automatic password checking and replacement of the ftp method of message exchange with sftp have been included in the Builds.

The software will have undergone a successful four-week System Integration Test and a successful eight-week System Acceptance Test at NWSHQ. Additionally, the software will have undergone a successful six-week Operational Acceptance Test at PHI, IWX, EWX, and SGX.

The following media will be included in the delivery package:

1. CRS Build 10.0 Installation CD - This is the standard CD that is used to install the software in the software note described below. Also, this CD will include a pdf version of the Build 10.0 version of the Site Operator's Manual (SOM). As was agreed to previously, we are no longer providing hard copy versions of documentation. Sites may access all documents from their Windows PC and print them if they wish. The same PDF versions of the documents will be available via the CRS Web Site. The CRS CD will be labeled as follows:

CRS V10.0
September 20, 2004

2. 6 VIP OS Restore CDs. The VIP operating system remains Red Hat Linux version 7.3. However, the disk imaging system has been revamped and requires 6 restore CDs and no diskettes. The 6 restore CDs will be used for the installation as described in Software Note 6. The CDs will be labeled as follows:

VIP OS Restore #1 through #6
September 20, 2004

3. Additionally, a blank DOS-formatted diskette will be necessary for the exchange of the ssh authorization keys. This is explained in Section 9 of Software Note 6.

The following pdf documents are attached and also are included on the CRS V10.0 CD:

1. Commuications Equipment Software Note 6 - This contains the software installation instructions for both CRS and VIP. Site personnel should read through the entire document to make sure they understand the instructions before performing the intallation. The entire procedure should take a maximum of six hours. The EMRS instructions also are included in the software note. THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING THE INSTALLATION IS COB OCTOBER 29, 2004.

Please note that as with previous software build upgrades, once a site has upgraded to the new software builds, it should not revert to an earlier CRS or VIP build. This is especially noteworthy for sites that use the VIP remote ftp capability that is being changed to remote sftp. Note 14 of Section 9 of Software Note 6 explains that remote sftp users must convert to a standard configuration that requires sites to dump the VIP messages to the LDAD Server (LS1) and then either push them out to the external system or have the external system retrieve them from LS1. If a site believes it has suffered an operational degradation to the broadcast of NWR messages as a result of the new builds, it should contact the CRS Help Desk to rectify the problem and, if the Help Desk deems necessary, return to an earlier build. Sites should never attempt to revert to an earlier build without direct assistance from the CRS Help Desk.

2. CRS Build 10.0/VIP Build 3.1 Release Notes - There are 10 software enhancements and 16 bug fixes included in these Builds. These notes describe each new function and the nature of each problem and how it was corrected.

3. Updated Appendix A of the System Administration Manual (SAM) - CRS Password Modification Procedures and Lost Root User Password Recovery

4. Updated Appendix C of the SAM - CRS Software Installation Procedure

5. Updated Appendix D of the SAM - MP Switch Procedure

6. Updated Appendix Z of the SAM - VIP Backup and Recovery Procedures